Survey No. T-853

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common J.B.Harrison House

2. Location

street & number Gibsontown Road ___ not for publication

city, town Tilghman ___ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state MD county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eli M. and Betty H. Shulman

street & number 2405 Brambleton Road telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21209

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 461

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 429

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The J.B.Harrison house, or Recluctant Point, is located at the end of Gibsontown Road in the village of Tilghman on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, MD. The house faces south, with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1881, this frame two-and-a-half story house is clad in white cedar shake shingles and the roof is covered with unpainted cedar shake shingles. The brick pier foundation has been infilled with concrete blocks.

The south (main) facade has five bays with a central door flanked by two three-over-one sash windows. The six-panel door has a classical surround and a flat roof portico supported by ionic columns. The second story of the south facade has five three-over-one sash windows and there are three cross gables at the attic story. Pointed-arch windows are inset into these gables which also have decorative bracket work.

The east elevation gable end has an exterior brick chimney and two quarter-round windows at the attic story. There is one colored glass window on the south side of the chimney at the first floor.

The north (rear) elevation has a full-width shed roof addition roofed with asphalt shingles. A screened porch was built onto the western bays of the addition around 1975. The second story of the northern elevation has three three-over-one sash windows. There is an interior brick chimney at the northwest corner of the primary wing.

The west elevation gable end has two three-over-one sash windows on the first story and two vents at the attic story. There is an entrance door and a pair of four light casement windows on the west side of the shed addition.

The interior banister rail is a solid piece of wood. This interior architectural feature reflects skills J.B.Harrison used later in his boat building career. A two seater outhouse remains in the backyard of the property.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1881 **Builder/Architect** J.B.Harrison

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The J.B.Harrison house, named Reluctant Point by its current owners, was built in 1881 by J.B.Harrison at the age of 16. Some of the wood for the structure came from Bald Eagle Point which Harrison transported himself by canoe. According to his daughter, Harrison's father was building a boat within sight of the house while J.B. worked on his house. The elder Mr. Harrison instructed the young J.B. as he worked. Later, J.B.Harrison built the house to the west of Reluctant Point.

J.B. Harrison went on to become one of Tilghman Island's most renowned boat builders. Most of his boat building was carried out on Devil's Island, an island built of oyster shells and connected by a causeway to Gibsontown Road. The remains of this island can still be seen, although much of it was destroyed in the hurricane of 1933. Today, the J.B.Harrison house has been exposed to the public eye via the watercolor paintings of the nationally published artist Susan Davis. Davis lives in the neighboring house built by Harrison.

The Harrison house has a cross gable dormer arrangement similar to the no longer extant Faulkner Boarding House in Fairbank. It is one of the more outstanding buildings on Gibsontown Road, significant both because of its design and its well-known designer in wood, J.B.Harrison.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, architectural historian

organization Talbot County Planning Office **date** 8/90

street & number Talbot County Courthouse **telephone** 822-2030

city or town Easton **state** MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

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J.B.Harrison House illustration by Susan Davis.

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1989 SEYVAL BLANC

A masterpiece from the wine cellars of the House of Shulman, carefully aged and bottled at the peak of perfection by Eli, Betty and Mark.

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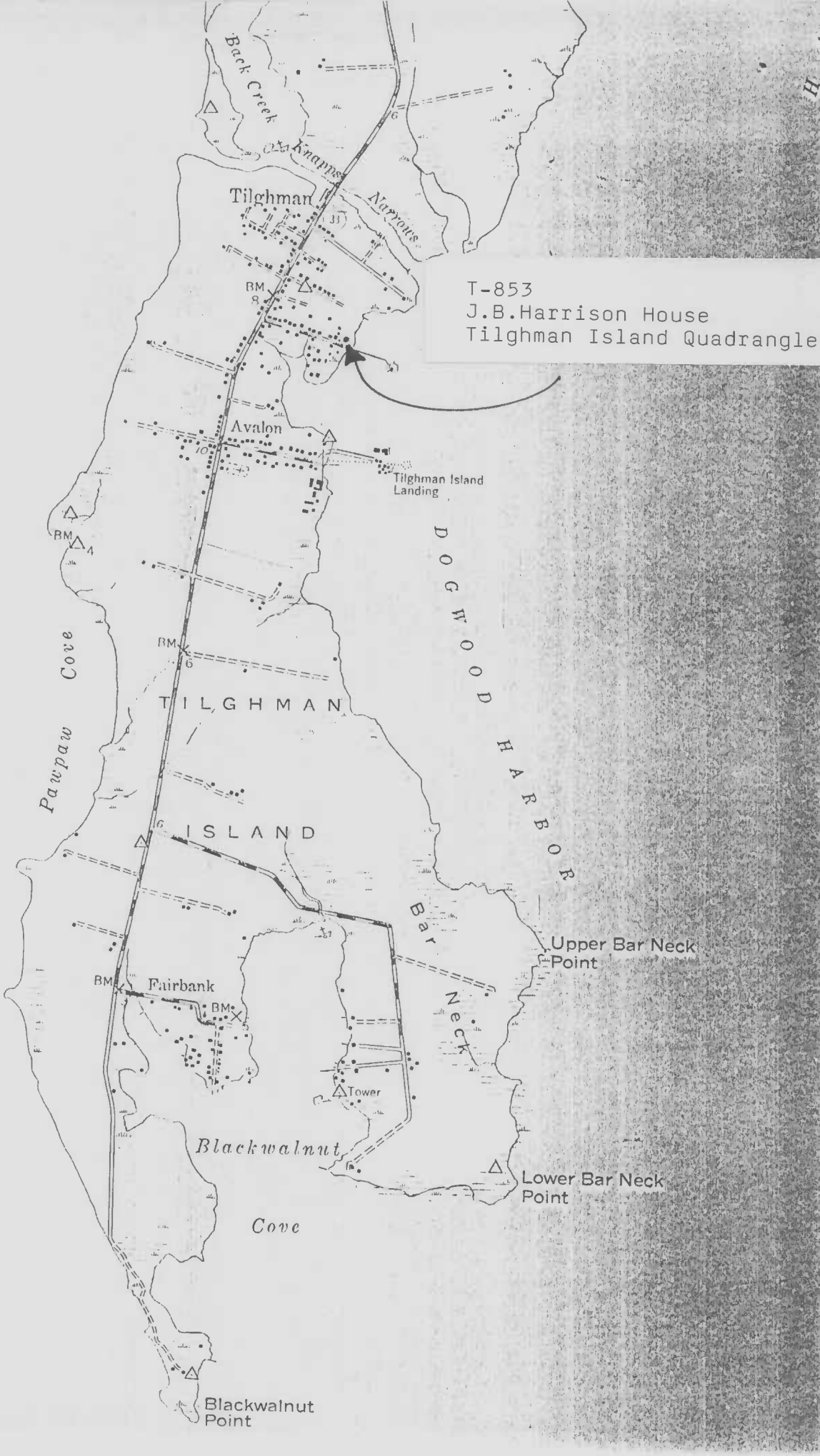
SHULMAN


T-853
J.B.Harrison House
Tilghman Island Quadrangle
Back Creek
Knapps
Narrows
Tilghman
Avalon
Tilghman Island Landing
DOGWOOD HARBOR
Pawpaw Cove
TILGHMAN
ISLAND
Bar Neck
Upper Bar Neck Point
Fairbank
Tower
Blackwalnut
Cove
Lower Bar Neck Point
Blackwalnut Point

T-853

J. R HARRISON HOUSE

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

SW ELEVATION

E. HUGHES, PHOTO.

8/90

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J. B. Harrison House

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